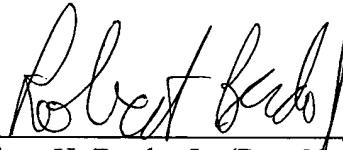


REMARKS

Claims 2-3, 6-9, 13-15, 19-26 are amended to eliminate multiple claims dependencies. Please enter the Preliminary Amendment prior to calculating the filing fee. Examination of the amended application respectfully is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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December 27, 2004
Date

RHB:tl